

**THURSTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION**  
**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, December 8, 2021, at 5:30 p.m.**  
**Hybrid Meeting - In-person hosted by Amy Perlman at**  
**Trevor Zandell's office and on Zoom**

Members Present: Trevor Zandell, Amy, Perlman, Michael Young, Bill Pope, John Kesler III, Geoff Hulse, Matt Huot, Patrick O'Connor, and Jim Laukkonen.

Members Absent: Brandon Koenig, Joe Scuderi, and Wayne Graham.

Others Present: Heather Ligtenberg

1. **Call to order** 5:37 p.m.
2. **Approval of Minutes of November 10, 2021, Board Meeting and November 20, 2021, Board Retreat** Amy moved to approve the November 10, 2021, minutes, seconded by John. The motion carried without objections. Trevor moved to approve the November 20, 2021, Board Retreat minutes, seconded by Amy. The motion carried without objections.
3. **New Business**
  - 3.1 Newsletter & Electronic version (Heather & Heidi) – Heather shared that the advertisements and articles are due on December 21, 2021, for the January Legal Brief. Megan Card helped find a Young Lawyer from her office to complete the Young Lawyer Spotlight for the January Legal Brief.
  - 3.2 WSBA Discipline (Geoff) – The WSBA recently suspended a Thurston County Bar Member from practicing law recently. A discussion took place on how to handle that. The bylaws say that if you are suspended you are also suspended from the TCBA until the suspension term is over. The Bylaws don't specify if we are required to notify the member. If the member tries to join the TCBA in 2022 then we will send the payment back. No one on the board thinks we need to take any action. We need to include in the bylaws if a board member or officer is suspended, what do we do. Trevor will add this to the bylaws.
4. **Old Business**
  - 4.1 Update on broadening Market of advertising in Legal Brief update (Jim) - Geoff will call Jim to discuss this on Monday.
  - 4.2 Update on Judicial Portrait for Judge Erik Price (Heather) – Unveiling ceremony is on January 21, 2022, at 4:00 p.m. or 4:30 p.m. Geoff will be attending on the behalf of the TCBA. If others want to attend, please let Heather know.
  - 4.3 Update on Holiday Lunch (Geoff/Heather) – Heather shared that we have 52 RSVPs for the holiday lunch.
  - 4.4 Update on Venmo (or a competitor) (Michael/Heather) – Heather and Michael have not met yet. They will meet and will discuss this next month.
5. **Treasurer's Report** (John) – November 2021 Financial Reports – John provided a financial report. Michael moved to approve, seconded by Bill. The motion carried without objections.
6. **Monthly Luncheon Update** (Michael) – Michael shared we had a great presentation on Friday, December 3, thanks to John Kesler & Amy Perlman who presented along with Bonnie Rosinbum and Ryan Cole from TCCLS. Now I need to focus on planning the next CLEs. If anyone has any ideas for CLEs please let Michael know.

## 7. Committee Reports

- 7.1 Bench/Bar (President) – Geoff will reach out to the Thurston County Court Administrator to set up a meeting.
- 7.2 CLE (Bill, Patrick, Amy, Brandon, Geoff, Matt) – Bill shared that he, Amy, and Patrick have been having phone conferences. Patrick is working on the 4<sup>th</sup> Trial Series CLE. Megan Rue is assisting with a CLE on Bankruptcy and possibly Collections. Judge Schaller graciously agreed to help with a CLE on civility which will be an Ethics CLE. Patrick will help with that CLE. The committee is looking to develop an Employment Law CLE and Changes to the Guardianship Law CLE. They hope to have the first CLE in February.
- 7.3 Rules Committee (Michael) – No meeting yet. Patrick said they brought this up at the last meeting with the judges. Judge Wilson took it to heart and said he expects she will set up a meeting in the new year.
- 7.4 Communicating with the Court about court administration (John, Trevor, Patrick, Amy, Geoff, Michael, Bill, Lindsey Trakel) – John shared that the group met and discussed criminal issues and said they had a good meeting. He is impressed with Judge Wilson’s leadership. We are meeting again next Wednesday and will probably pick up where we left off last meeting as we didn’t get through the entire agenda.
- 7.5 Annual Meeting Planning Committee (Heather, Matt, Jim, Brandon, John, Amy) – Heather said we haven’t met again, but will pick this up at the end of January.
- 7.6 Law Day Speech Contest (Patrick) – Patrick said he hopes to have a draft next month.
- 7.7 Bylaws Committee (Trevor, Geoff, Michael, Jim) – Trevor sent an email to the committee to set up a meeting in January.
- 7.8 Venue for CLEs Committee (Heather) - Heather shared some options of venues that she has looked at. Heather and Michael will work together and select a venue. Bill moved that we give Heather and Michael the discretion to select a venue, seconded by Amy. The motion carried without objections.
- 7.9 Social Events Committee (Brandon (Chair), Heather, Geoff, Joe, Wayne) – They have not met yet.
- 7.10 How to Increase Membership Committee (Matt & Michael) – Michael and Matt have not met yet.

## 8. Section Reports

- 8.1 Family Law (Meredith Gerhart) - We are not meeting this month. In years past, we would have a potluck in December, but this is the 2<sup>nd</sup> year we are not able to do so. I have encouraged everyone to come to the TCBA’s holiday lunch!
- 8.2 Pro Bono (Geoff Hulsey) – No report.
- 8.3 Young Lawyers (Brooke Frickleton) – No report. Geoff appointed Devin Kohr to the Young Lawyer Chair position, effective January 1, 2022.
- 8.4 Criminal Law (Lindsey Trakel & Angela Colauita) – We have a section meeting with the presiding judges on 12/8 at noon via Zoom. In preparation for that meeting we met with the membership recently over Zoom and collected their thoughts on what is going well in court and what could be better. We have a CLE scheduled on 12/13 from 11:30 to 1:30 PM via Zoom with several representatives from DOC and the AGs Office that I believe are awaiting approval for still. The board asked that they extend the invite to all members. Bill moved to approve the CLE, seconded by John. The motion carried without objections.
- 8.5 Real Estate, Land Use, and Environmental Law (Heather Burgess) – Michael shared that there was a program this week featuring David Trout who talked about the Nisqually River/I-5 crossing.
- 8.6 Diversity and Inclusion (Zelena Jones & Jessica Shen) - We had our last meeting on November 17 where members discussed how to respond upon seeing discrimination in the courtroom, whether that be by the judge, another attorney, a participant in the court process,

etc. I had asked this question to Justice Yu during a prior CLE and relayed her suggestions to the group. We had a lively discussion where people talked about ways to show solidarity when the discrimination is happening to someone else, as well as differing perspectives and rationales for how best to show that solidarity. i.e. should the support be silently standing next to them, spoken about afterwards to either the person being discriminated against or doing the discrimination, or at the time it occurs? People generally seemed to agree that attorneys should preserve the record but do it in a respectful way without assuming malicious intent. Some thought that non-minority allies should make it known in court that they personally are offended by the comments, while others were concerned about making the discrimination about them and not the person being discriminated against if they did so. Another suggestion was made to have the conversation with someone before anything happens so you know what they would like you to do if discrimination occurs, whether that be allow them to handle it themselves or speak up on their behalf. Our next meeting will be January 12 @ 12pm. The planned discussion will be about mental health. Zelena and I will be selecting chapter(s) of Roy Grinker's book "Nobody's Normal: How Culture Created the Stigma of Mental Illness" as reading for the group to do before the meeting.

9. **Additions to agenda**

- 9.1 Local Hero Award Nominations – Bill said that he feels uncomfortable nominating someone from our board for this award. Others on the board agree. Patrick stated that he is withdrawing his nomination out of consideration for all of the reasons mentioned. A discussion took place. The board members on Zoom tonight sent Heather their vote by email. The board members in the room tonight voted anonymously on paper. Matt proposed that we approve Heidi, seconded by Bill. The motion carried with one objection. Michael asked Matt to consider Alan Anderson for the Government Bar Lawyer Association (GBLA) Local Hero nomination since Matt is also on the GBLA Board too. A suggestion was made to remember next year to reach out to those who nominated people this year to submit them again next year. We should consider calling the people who nominated people for the Bigelow Award as well. Bill would like it noted that this was a very difficult decision this year as there were many deserving nominees, and the votes were very close.
- 9.2 Trevor said we had some hick-ups tonight with technology. He is wondering if in the future we will be meeting in-person or should we go back to Zoom. After discussion, we will continue to be in-person, but have a Zoom option available. Trevor shared that the door to his office locks at 4:30 p.m. but is supposed to stay unlocked until 5:45 p.m. so hopefully that will be fixed for the next meeting. Amy said she didn't have Trevor's phone number to get in the building. Heather will send around a phone tree list.
- 9.3 Bill wished Jim well with his upcoming surgery and wished him a rapid recovery, as did the rest of the board.

10. **Announcements**

11. **Date/location of next meeting:** January 12, 2022 – Hybrid – in-person hosted by Geoff Hulsey at Trevor Zandell's office and on Zoom
12. **Adjourn** 6:53 p.m.